

# CHAPTER 7



Most  
Important  
Single  
Chapter  
of the  
Book

# JOINS ALL MAJOR CHARACTERS

- All major characters plus all geographical locations come together in a final catastrophe



# CALL OFF THE PARTIES

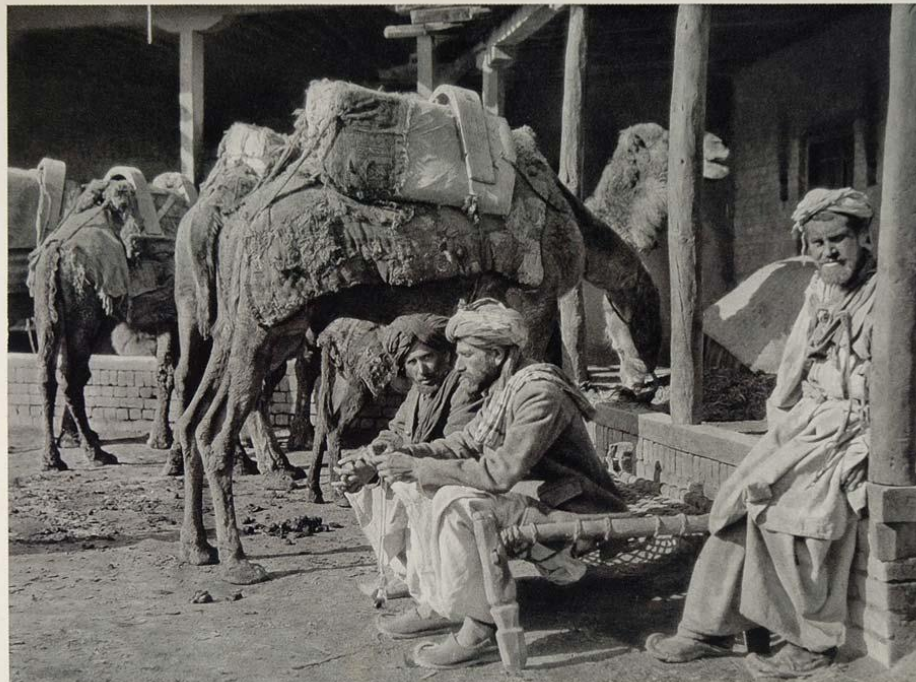
- Gatsby calls off his parties; the only reason he gave them was to attract Daisy.
- He fired his servants and hired a butler “with a villainous face.”
- Every servant “replaced” with “new people” – friends of Wolfsheim
- Evidence of how far his obsession for Daisy has gone
- Were they even servants?



# “FALLEN LIKE A HOUSE OF CARDS”

## ■ Caravansary =

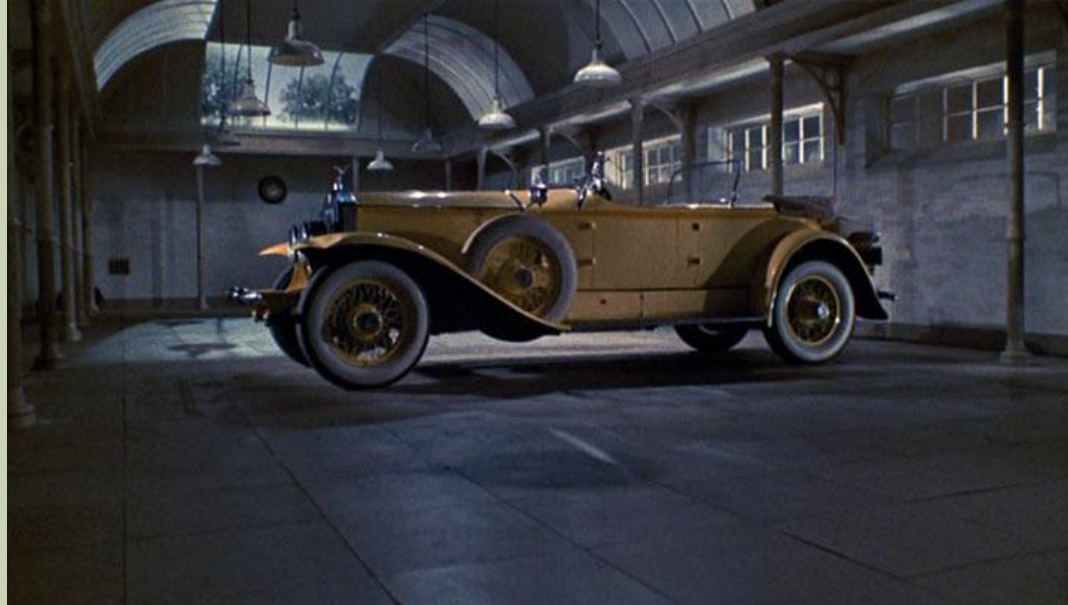
- 1. An inn built around a large court for accommodating caravans along trade routes in central and western Asia.
- 2. A large inn or hostelry.





# “SOMETHING WAS UP.”

- Gatsby called Nick at Daisy’s request; have lunch at her house.
- Why would they choose this occasion for a scene?
- Yet, Gatsby had “outlined” a “rather harrowing scene.”



# OPPRESSIVE HEAT

- “The next day was broiling, almost the last, certainly the warmest of the summer.”
- *Sunlight, hot whistles, simmering hush, combustion*
- Weather: Again, Fitzgerald orchestrates the weather
- Nothing comfortable about nature in this modern wasteland
- Sun is more a burden than a nourisher of life
- “’Hot!’ said the conductor to familiar faces. ‘Some weather! ... Hot! ... Hot! ... Hot! ... Is it hot enough for you? Is it ...?’”

# “THE BLES-SED PRE-CIOUS!”



- “Come to your own mother that loves you.”
- “Did mother get powder on your old yellow-y hair?”
- “[Gatsby] kept looking at the child with surprise. I don’t think he had ever really believed in its existence before.”
- “You dream you. You absolute little dream.”



# “HOW DO YOU LIKE MOTHER’S FRIENDS?”

- “Do you think they’re pretty?”
- “Where’s Daddy?”
- “She doesn’t look like her father.”
- “Gatsby took up his drink.”



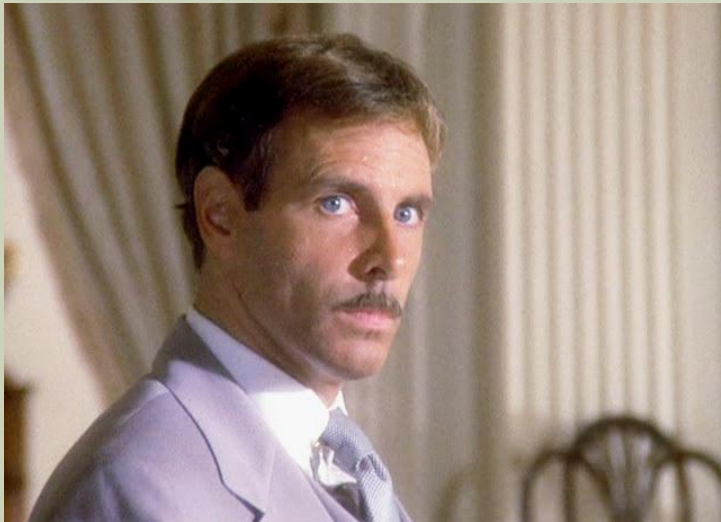


# COLOR OF BOREDOM?

- “Our eyes lifted over the rosebeds and the hot lawn and the weedy refuse of the dog-days alongshore.”
- “Slowly the white wings of the boat moved against the blue cool limit of the sky.”
- “‘What’ll we do with ourselves this afternoon? and the day after that and the next thirty years?’”
- Jordan: “Don’t be morbid. Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall.”



# TOM REALIZES DAISY LOVES GATSBY



- “‘Ah,’ she cried, ‘you look so cool.’”
- “Their eyes met ... alone in space.”
- “‘You always look so cool.’”
- Had she told him she loved him, as Tom “saw”?
- Why was Tom astounded?
- “His mouth opened a little, and he looked at Gatsby, and then back at Daisy as if he had just recognized her as someone he knew a long time ago.”

# “WE’RE ALL GOING TO TOWN”

- Tom takes Daisy up on an earlier idea to go to New York.
- Compare this “party” scene to the earlier one in New York with Myrtle.
- Look for parallels between the parties in New York – the way characters behave and have to go through the Valley of Ashes to get there.



# “HER VOICE IS FULL OF MONEY”

- “I can’t say anything in his house, old sport.”
- “She’s got an indiscreet voice. It’s full of –’”
- “Her voice is full of money”
- “That was it. I’d never understood before. It was full of money – that was the inexhaustible charm that rose and fell in it, the jingle of it, the cymbals’ song of it ... High in a white palace the king’s daughter, the golden girl ...”





# WHO DRIVES WHICH CAR?

- To New York:
  - In Gatsby's yellow car: Jordan, Tom, Nick
  - In Tom's blue car: Daisy, Gatsby
- Objection: “‘I don't think there's much gas'”
- Retort: “‘...if it runs out I can stop at a drug store. You can buy anything at a drug-store nowadays.'”
- “‘Come on Daisy, I'll take you in this circus wagon.'”
  - Another comparison of Gatsby's life to an amusement park

# GATSBY AND DAISY IN BLUE



# NICK, JORDAN, TOM IN YELLOW



# WILSON IS SICK ... WHY?

- “The proprietor emerged from the interior of his establishment and gazed hollow-eyed at the car.”
- “‘I’m sick. Been sick all day.’ In the sunlight his face was green.”
- “‘I want to get away. My wife [Myrtle] and I want to go West. ... I just got wised up to something funny the last two days.’”
- Nick realizes that Wilson and Tom are in identical positions; both just learned their wives were unfaithful.
- Eyes of T.J. Eckleburg “kept their vigil” – mocking characters’ feeble attempts to hide from the truth?
- Eyes seem to see the corruption and decadence beneath the façade



# MYRTLE WILSON PEERS DOWN

- Less than twenty feet away
- Myrtle peering down at car
- “one emotion after another crept into her face like objects into a slowly developing picture”
- “I realized her eyes, wide with jealous terror, were fixed not on Tom, but on Jordan Baker, whom she took to be his wife.”
- “There is no confusion like the confusion of a simple mind.”



# OLD SPORT

- Tom mocks Gatsby for calling people “Old Sport.”
- ““By the way, Mr. Gatsby, I understand you’re an Oxford man.’”
- ““Not exactly. ... I only stayed five months.’”
- To Nick’s delight, Gatsby simply tells the truth.
- Then, Tom asks Gatsby point blank what his intentions are toward his wife.



# MR. NOBODY

- “I suppose the latest thing is to ... let Mr. Nobody from Nowhere make love to your wife. ... Nowadays people begin by sneering at family life and family institutions, and next they'll throw everything overboard and have intermarriage between black and white.’”
- “The transition from libertine to prig was ... complete.’”
- “Your wife doesn't love you. She only married you because I was poor and she was tired of waiting for me.’”



# BOTH MEN BEG DAISY

- Tom admits he has been less than an ideal husband.
- “... but I always come back, and in my heart I love her all the time.’”
- “‘You’re revolting.’”
- Gatsby wants Daisy to say she never loved Tom, never in all the years of their marriage.
- Gatsby’s efforts to deny the past, to shape the world according to his dream – that is what brings about Gatsby’s downfall.
- “‘Oh you want too much!’”
- Gatsby’s dream is pierced: “‘You loved me *too*?’”
- Now Tom begins to teach Gatsby’s dream to pieces.



# BOTTOM LINE

- A romantic dream is worth less to Daisy than the security of an unfaithful husband.



# TOM'S INVESTIGATION

- Tom has been investigating Gatsby's activities – has evidence that drugstores are fronts for bootlegging activities.
- Walter Chase – in jail for a month because of Gatsby
- Walter Chase – quiet because of Meyer Wolfsheim's threats
- And there's more ... but everyone's afraid to talk.
- The dream is dead.



# AFTERNOON AT PLAZA WINDS DOWN

- Tom is confident enough to send Gatsby and Daisy home together in Gatsby's yellow car.
- Gatsby can do no more harm to him.
- Nick also remembers that today is the day he turns thirty – symbolic birthday – reminds us that this is really a novel about Nick growing up
- He came to New York naïve and inexperienced, with most of his education from books.
- This summer taught him about life in a way no book could.
- Compare this summer for Nick to the five years on Dan Cody's yacht for Gatsby.
- Quote: "So we drove on toward death through the cooling twilight."

# “I’VE GOT MY WIFE LOCKED UP THERE”

- “Wilson had never seemed faintly capable of such a statement.
- “When anyone spoke to him he invariably laughed in an agreeable, colorless way.”
- Michaelis heard Myrtle say, “Beat me! ... Throw me down and beat me, you dirty little coward!”
- Then, the “death car ... came out of the darkness.”
- Michaelis, the young Greek who runs the all-night restaurant tells the story as he experienced it.
- The final phase of Nick’s education is learning about death, and death is just around the corner.

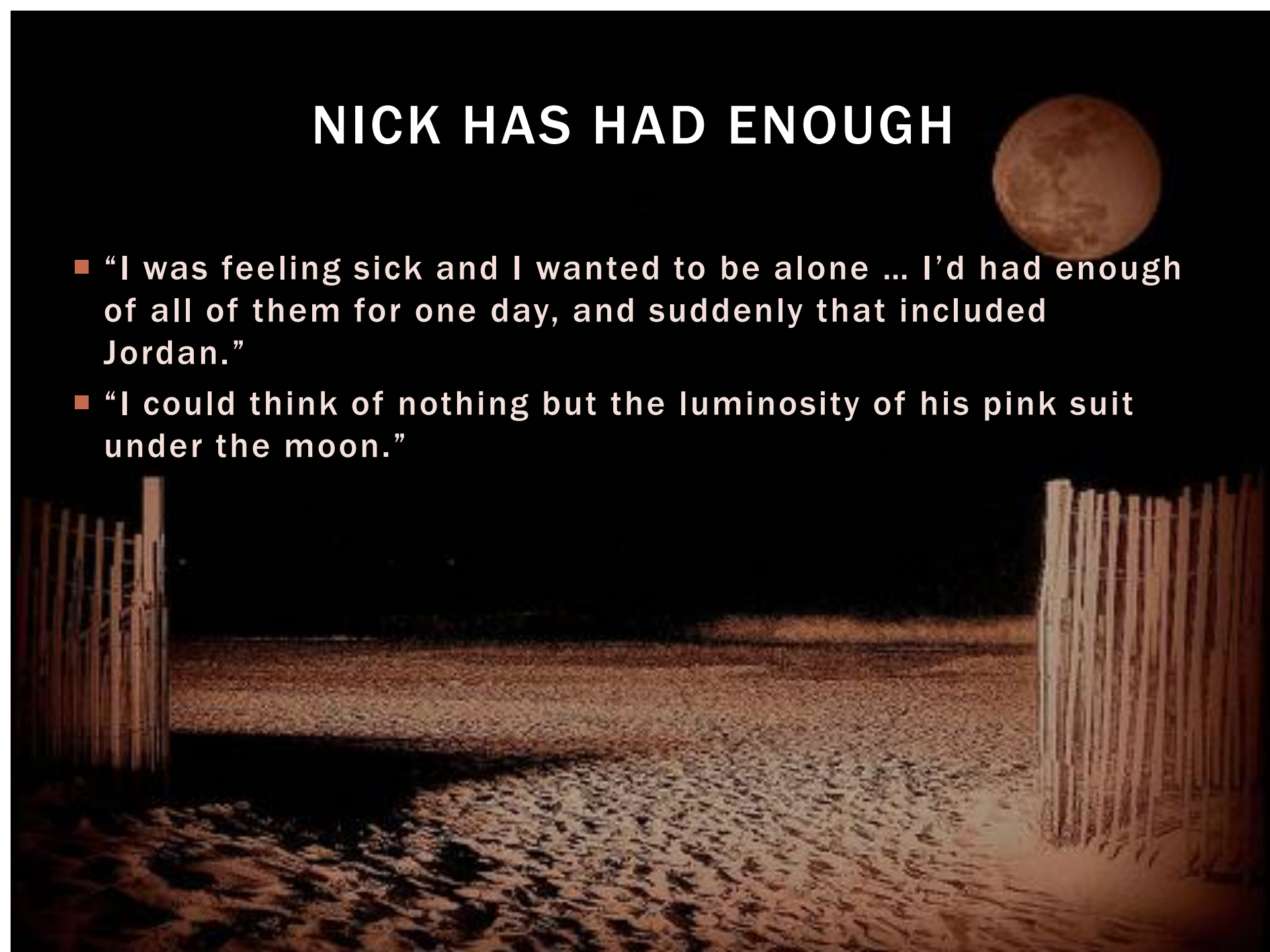


# “WILSON’LL HAVE A LITTLE BUSINESS’

- “... the garage was lit only by a yellow light in a swinging wire basket overhead.”
- “[Tom made] a harsh sound in his throat, and with a violent thrusting movement of his powerful arms pushed his way through.”
- “‘Auto hit her. Ins’tantly killed.’”
- “‘She ran out ina road. Son-of-a-bitch didn’t even stopus car.’”
- “‘It was a yellow car ... big yellow car. New.’”
- Tom thinks Wilson will remember the yellow car from that afternoon: “‘That car was driving this afternoon wasn’t mine – do you hear?’”
- “‘The G-d coward! ... He didn’t even stop his car.’”

# NICK HAS HAD ENOUGH

- “I was feeling sick and I wanted to be alone ... I’d had enough of all of them for one day, and suddenly that included Jordan.”
- “I could think of nothing but the luminosity of his pink suit under the moon.”



# WAS DAISY DRIVING?

- “‘Yes, but of course I’ll say I was.’”
- Gatsby tells Nick Daisy was driving – any other decision for a man so deeply in love?
- “‘When we left New York she [Daisy] was very nervous and she thought it would steady her to drive – and this woman rushed out at us just as we were passing a car coming the other way.’”
- So, Myrtle thought it was Tom driving the yellow car ...
- Key: “‘She’ll be all right tomorrow.’”



# COLD FRIED CHICKEN

- Ordinary domestic scene – contrasts with drama of the evening
- Nick realizes that Tom and Daisy have “accepted” each other again and that Gatsby has irrevocably lost Daisy.
- She has returned to Tom and the protection of his money and his influence.
- He will take care of her through this crisis.
- The dream is over.